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English 102

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Chosen Artwork Research Proposal: The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ St. John and Virgin Marry

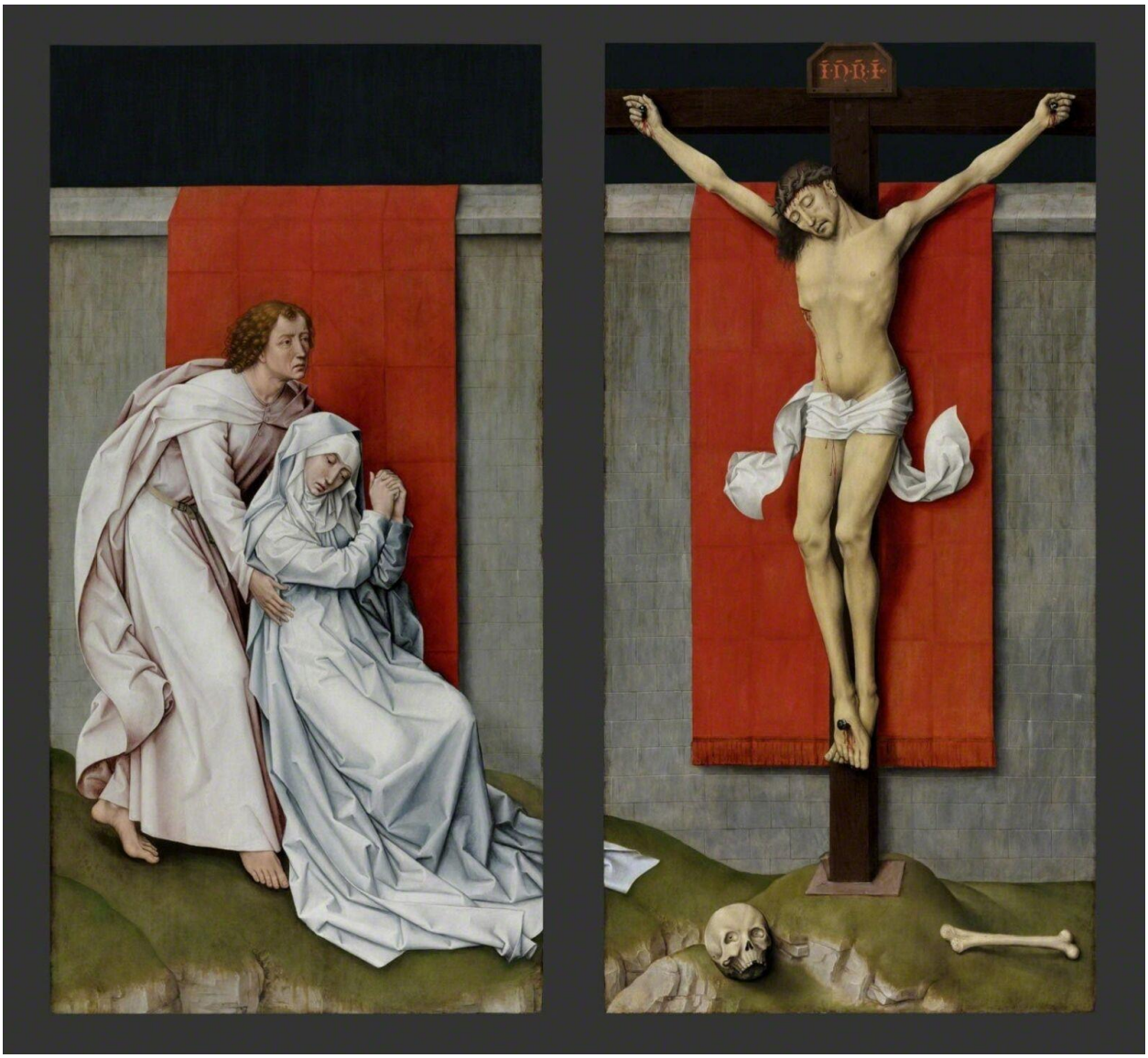

Fig. 1: Van Der Wayden, Rogier, The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ St. John and Virgin Marry, 1460, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia

I want to talk about this painting from the Phildelphia Museum of Art and explains its Origin, Theories on what happened to the third piece, and The Historical and Biological context of the painting. The Philadelphia Museum of Art had this painting for 109 years. This was The Crucifix a painting in 1460 made by a guy named Rogier Van Der Weyden. This was art of the Crucifixion of Jesus H. Christ when he was punished by the Roman Authorities during the Roman Empire's time. This was when he died for 3 days after he was Crucified. This was during the time he was in hell fighting the demons, he beat them and won. The painting

describes how they nailed Jesus H. Christ when he was sentenced. On one nail to his right hand, the other on his left hand, then the last on his two feet. This painting also shows the Virgin Mary and St. John. They are mourning the Death of Jesus H. Christ at the places where he was Crucified, and they are praying to God to bring him here. That way he can save his Soul to bring him back to life. This painting describing St. John was holding Virgin Marry was on her bottom while she is mourning Jesus Christ. They show the bones of a Skull and bone of a arm. (Fig .1)

We are talking about how the historical theory of the painting was made in 3 but the third piece is missing out of the two paintings. There was apparently a third painting of the Crucifix that was lost during the painting's holding of Roiger Van Der Wayden. The reason the painting was lost is unconfirmed there are theories to what happened to the painting and why it was lost in the first place. There is the first theory that it was sold to a unknown seller in the 1460s in the Netherlands.

- Possible theories how the Painting was lost during this period

The time they would sell art pieces individually in Europe. There was a art boom in the 17th-19th meaning the seller would get passed down to other sellers in Europe at the time. The rumors are that it was damaged when it was made. When it was made the third piece was destroyed by a accident of it falling over. The third piece was damaged from being forgotten in a cabinet somewhere. There was also rumored that the art was destroyed during the Protestant Reformation. The Protestant Reformation was at the time the most brutal due to the fact that the Reformed Protestants had destroyed many Catholic traditions like buildings, writing, and art. The Protestant Reformation was the most plausible here, or at least in my opinion because that means there would be a reason to explain why the third piece of the paint got lost in more clear and reasonable way of why.

- The Context in different ways

What is being Portrayed in a historical and biological context with this painting of the Crucifix with St. John and Virgin Mary mourning to Jesus Christ. (Fig .1)

The Historical Context of The Painting

This painting is about the Crucification of Jesus Christ is talking about how Jesus Christ died from Crucifixion by the Romans. The painting in this way was historical accurate in this historical context because the painting portrays of how he died, the wounds, and the position on the Crucifixion. Historical this is how Jesus died on the cross in this way portrayed in the painting. The wounds in the painting are historically accurate to the wounds where they were located on the original Crucifixion of Jesus Christ when they were written in history books. The Position of the dead body of Jesus Christ is portrayed accurately because the arms would hang on the side of the cross, his head tilted to the left, and his feet together right one above the left one. (Fig .1)

The Biological Context of the Painting

The Biolological effect of Crucifixion of Jesus Christ was the effects of him after being scourging when he was whipped causing him to bleed from his chest. There effects of the Throne Crown on Jesus's head would cause huge damage to his nerves in his head causing him to bled. The nails that were made to put Christ on the Cross caused bleeding, Trauma, and Shock. This is all according to the Catholic insight they said the injuries of Jesus Christ caused major damage to his body when he Crucified leading him to die slowly. Catholic Insight said,

- "The injuries sustained during scourging were extensive. Blows to the upper back and rib area caused rib fractures, severe bruising in the lungs, bleeding into the chest cavity and partial or complete pneumothorax (puncture wound to the lung causing it to collapse). As much as 125 millilitres of blood could be lost. The victim would periodically vomit, experience tremors and seizures, and have bouts of

fainting. Each excruciating strike would elicit shrieks of pain. The victim would be diaphoretic (profusely sweating) and exhausted, his flesh mangled and ripped, and would crave water because of the loss of fluid from bleeding and diaphoresis. “The nerve supply for pain perception to the head region is distributed by branches of two major nerves: the trigeminal nerve, which essentially supplies the front half of the head, and the greater occipital branch, which supplies the back half of the head.” 6 These two nerves enervate all areas of the head and face. The trigeminal nerve, also known as the fifth cranial nerve, runs through the face, eyes, nose, mouth, and jaws. Irritation of this nerve by the crown of thorns would have caused a condition called trigeminal neuralgia or *tic douloureux*. This condition causes severe facial pain that may be triggered by light touch, swallowing, eating, talking, temperature changes, and exposure to wind. Stabbing pain radiates around the eyes, over the forehead, the upper lip, nose, cheek, the side of the tongue and the lower lip. Spasmodic episodes of stabbing, lancinating, and explosive pain are often more agonizing during times of fatigue or tension. It is said to be the worst pain that anyone can experience. How could a humiliated, weakened, beaten, bleeding, mangled mess of a man already suffering from breathing difficulties, as well as hypovolemic and traumatic shock, carry a t-shaped cross that weighed between 175 and 200 pounds? The short answer is that He did not. The cross used in Roman crucifixions consisted of two parts: “the upright or mortise, referred to as the *stipes,* or *staticulum,* and the tenon or crosspiece, which is called the *patibulum* or *antenna*.”7 Historic information shows that the stipes were already in position at Calvary. Jesus carried the crosspiece. At Calvary He was nailed to the crosspiece, which was then placed into a rectangular notch carved into the tip of the stipes.” McDermott 2025 #1-3

- My experience going to see the painting

I went to the Philadelphia Museum Of Arts to see this painting. Making the setting seem like a Medieval Catholic Dutch environment of beautiful art to describe this culture of this time. It shows the Religious culture of the Catholics and how they would do art. Because According to The Collector it says art when we see it, it emerges more as we are in the room with it when we go to a more immersive feeling when you make an environment room based off of the art. “Barnes vs. A lab But Viewers often forgot their impressions of artwork because there were so many other visual aspects in a museum.”

“For centuries since their emergence, museums have applied different techniques and methods of displaying their collections, inevitably affecting the perception of works. Just like any human-made projects, museums inevitably show the biases of their creators, often reflecting political and social issues of their time. Read on to learn more about the art of display and the shaping of viewers’ perception—from old cabinets of curiosities to white cube galleries, and from unconscious racial biases to political expressions within museum walls.” Kirpalov 2026 #1

McDermott, T. (2025, June 17). *The physical effects of the Scourging and crucifixion of jesus - catholic insight*. Catholic Insight - Inspired by Truth, Enlightening Minds. https://catholicinsight.com/2025/04/19/the-physical-effects-of-the-scourging-and-crucifixion-of-jesus/

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